

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 95

Introduced by Senator Simitian

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Hill, Niello, and Portantino)

March 25, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 95, as amended, Simitian. World War II: Italian Americans.

This measure would set forth the Legislature's formal acknowledgment that the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans, its deepest regrets of these acts, and its reaffirmation of a commitment to preserving the rights of all people and celebrating their contributions.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Since 1852, over 15 million Italians have
2 immigrated to the United States, bringing with them a culture and
3 heritage that has enriched the lives of all Americans; and
4 WHEREAS, The treatment of Italian Americans during World
5 War II was authorized by the Alien Enemies Act, which was passed
6 by Congress, and additional authority was based on Executive
7 Order No. 9066 (issued February 19, 1942) and Executive Order
8 No. 9102 (issued March 18, 1942). These orders required Italian
9 born citizens and their families to carry identification cards, face
10 travel restrictions, obey curfews, and also authorized the seizure
11 of personal property; and

1 WHEREAS, 10,000 Italian Americans living on the West Coast
2 were forced to leave their homes and were prohibited from entering
3 coastal zones during World War II; and

4 WHEREAS, Thousands of Italian American immigrants were
5 arrested and hundreds were interned in military camps during
6 World War II; and

7 WHEREAS, The story of the treatment of Italian Americans
8 during World War II needs to be told in order to acknowledge that
9 these events happened, to remember those whose lives were
10 unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair
11 the damage to the Italian American community, and to discourage
12 the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties
13 in the future; ~~now, therefore, be it and~~

14 *WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize these events during*
15 *October, which is designated as Italian American Heritage Month;*
16 *now, therefore, be it*

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
18 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature formally acknowledge
19 that the events of World War II represented a fundamental injustice
20 against Italian Americans, deeply regrets these acts, and reaffirms
21 its commitment to preserving the rights of all people and
22 celebrating their contributions; and be it further

23 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.